of the "CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY" Series

301.32
N167c

Christian View of BIRTH-CONTROL

Clyde M. Narramore, Ed.D.

University of
Illinois Library
at Urbana-Champaign
Oak Street

301.32
N167c

43623

Library
Olivet Nazarene College
Kankakee, Ill.

DATE DUE

OCT 8 '77	AP 12 '85		
OCT 14 '77			
NOV 6 '77	26 '85	MAR 02 '90	
NOV 16 '77	DE 13 '85	MAR 16 '90	
	FE 07 '86	MAY 11 '90	
MY 23 '79	FE 21 '86	SEP 21 '90	
DE 17 '79		APR 05 '91	
MR 13 '81			
MY 20 '81			
DE 3 '82			
FE 03 '84	NO 13 '87		
MR 2 '84	NO 27 '87		
AP 20 '84	MR 25 '88		
MY 4 '84	AP 22 '88		
	NO 04 '88		
	MR 24 '89		

GAYLORD PRINTED IN U.S.A.

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College
KANKAKEE, ILL.

301.32
N 167c

ZONDERVAN PUBLISHING HOUSE
GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

A Christian View of Birth Control
Copyright 1961 by
Clyde M. Narramore

Third Printing – 1963

Printed in the United States of America

301.32
N167c

43623

A Christian View of Birth Control

If you could magically turn back the calendar of time and examine the thoughts of parents through the ages, you would find that from the beginning couples have seriously considered the number of children they should have.

The Bible tells of various ones who longed for children. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, for example, wanted a child, and finally God blessed them with a son, Isaac. In another instance, Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, prayed desperately for a child. "I am a woman of sorrowful spirit," she said. She was in bitterness of soul and pleaded with the Lord. The Bible says that she "wept sore," neither did she eat. Finally God answered her prayers and gave her a child, Samuel.

On the other hand, undoubtedly, there were also some parents, not recorded in Scripture, who did not welcome their children. Also there were probably those parents who wished that they would not have any more.

People today are no different. Some long in vain for sons and daughters, while others deeply resent the fact that another child is to be born to them. Still others love and care for the children they do have, but do not prefer to have others.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Alternates

https://archive.org/details/christianviewofb00narr

CONTENTS

1. Attitudes Toward Raising Families..... 7

2. Why Parents Consider Family Planning.....10

3. Unwanted Children 15

4. A Silent Subject 19

5. What Does the Bible Say?.....21

6. Parental Responsibilities to Children 25

7. In Summary.....29

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College
KANKAKEE, ILL.

1 | Attitudes Toward Raising Families

What does the raising of children mean to a family? What is the parents' attitude toward pregnancy? What does the birth of a child mean to a man and his wife?

One thing is certain – they mean something different to each family. To some they mean fulfillment and boundless joy. To others they represent heavy burdens, and to still others they indicate sorrow or fear.

The "Winstons" waited nine years before their little bundle of joy arrived to bless and brighten their home. Their hopes had been high twice before, but each time it had ended in the keen disappointment of miscarriage. Now that Carol Ann had come to live with them, their delight knew no bounds and they praised the Lord continually for entrusting this precious little life to them. Two years later when tiny Kenneth came into the family circle, the Winstons were just as thrilled as they had been the first time. Carol Ann had a little brother – and now they were four.

But the situation at the "Bradley" home was completely different. Tom and Sue were both young when they were married, and the first baby came in less than a year. A year later there was another baby, and the year after that the twins were born. Sue was worn to a frazzle trying to care for her home and run a nursery for four babies (all still in diapers) – and this on a very skimpy budget. Tom didn't have a high-paying job so he worked overtime week-ends and in the evenings, trying to supplement his salary in order to support his family of six. When he arrived home from work, even though it was late, he had to pitch in and help with the housework and assume his share of the night duty in baby care. Tom and Sue were tired. Although they were still young, life wasn't fun; it was drudgery. Little wonder, then, when Sue discovered that she was pregnant again, she

sobbed as if her heart would break. Tom didn't shed any tears, but the worry and concern about how they would manage with another baby made him cross and irritable. Although they didn't want to feel that way, they couldn't help but resent the baby's coming.

With the "Browns" it was still another situation. Don and Mary had one child, a boy, who had been injured at birth and was severely retarded mentally. In addition to the heartbreak of having a handicapped child, Mary had almost died at the time of childbirth, and after she had come home from the hospital, she had an emotional breakdown and was ill for over a year. Naturally, when Mary and Don discovered that they were going to have another baby, they were filled with misgivings. Mary was fearful and afraid, and Don was concerned about Mary. And inwardly, they both worried about the possibility of this child being handicapped too. For the Browns, the months of waiting were ones of apprehension rather than anticipation.

So it goes. The attitudes with which each family accepts the news of pregnancy varies with the individual circumstances and the emotional maturity of the prospective parents.

2 | Why Parents Consider Family Planning

God does not have the same blueprint for every family. It is interesting to note of the Old Testament saints that while some, like Jacob, had large families, many others had small families. Isaac had but two sons, Joseph only two. The parents of Moses had but three and Aaron had four sons. In some instances, men and women of the Bible had no children at all. The number of children in each family followed no set pattern.

This situation is much the same today. Each family has its own resources and problems. In view of this, each family must consider God's desires for it independently from other homes. Thus, considerations of family planning which one couple must take into account may not affect another husband and wife.*

There are various conditions which cause Christian families to seriously consider how many children they should have. One lady said, "My husband and I are very concerned about having another child. We have had two already, and we praise God that they are both fine and healthy. However, with the birth of each child, I have had a serious problem, even though I wanted each one badly. We have had the finest doctors available and still there seems to be no help for me. And I am afraid that if I have another child, I will have to spend considerable time in a mental institution.

"With the first baby I was unable to come home from the hospital for several weeks. Then when I did come home, I became so emotionally and mentally ill that I had to be taken to a mental institution. I was there for nearly two months. Little by little I began to feel better, and at the end of six months I was quite normal again. Naturally this was very hard on the family.

* The term, "birth control" here, does not refer to abortion, which is a predetermined plan to terminate a pregnancy in its early stages of development.

'With the birth of the second child, I had to be hospitalized in a mental institution for about four months. This was a terrible experience. The doctors and psychiatrists have warned us that we should never have any more children. We are a Christian family and want God's blessing, but we know that more children would be wrong."

Another Christian mother said, "About seven months ago I discovered that I had a disease called multiple sclerosis. At the time, the doctor warned against another pregnancy. But we did not heed his warning.

"When I found that I was pregnant, I informed our family doctor. He refused to take my case because he felt he was not skilled enough to risk the delivery. He said the chance for my survival was one out of ninety (during the labor). He felt that if we insisted, he would take my case, but it would have to be at our own risk. We would have to sign papers declaring we would not hold him responsible in case of *my death* or the *baby's death.*

"At least two or three other general doctors in this area feel the same way about the case. Is the danger really so great? If so, what shall we do?"

Undoubtedly, *changes in our manner of living* have also caused people to seriously consider the advisability of spacing their children. Years ago the majority of the people in the United States lived on farms where it was not difficult to "absorb" another child or two. There was plenty of space. Children were not thrown against their neighbors. However, today most people live in cities. And a family that is cramped into an apartment with little place for children to play, seriously questions how many children they should have.

Still others are concerned about *financial problems.* Some feel that according to God's Word, as Christian parents they have a responsibility to provide for their children and that God does not expect them to have a larger family than they can adequately care for. The following case expresses this concern:

"For some time my husband, who is a pastor, and I have seriously discussed the question of birth control. We have always thought that we would happily accept any children

God gave us. So we have never given any thought to the size of our family.

"Lately, however, we have begun to wonder. We have been married a little over ten years and already we have five children. And the prospects are for more. In fact, we are only in our early thirties. We have a wonderful healthy family for which we praise God. But finances are very difficult. Our pastorate is in the country and, of course, our income is very low. By managing very carefully, we are able to keep our children in clothes and feed them. However, they do not have the medical attention they should have. In fact, on two occasions we almost lost one of our dear little boys because we simply didn't have the money to get the medical help which he needed.

"As we study the Scriptures we do not find anything directly pertaining to birth control, and we are wondering if perhaps it wouldn't be wise for us to limit our family. We want to provide and care for the children we *do* have. This, we are sure, is honoring to the Lord."

Some families must take into consideration another factor: *inherited traits.* For example, in some families, all of the children are mentally retarded. These are sometimes called "defective families." In one such family, two sisters were extremely slow. An older brother in junior high school was placed in a special education class for the extremely slow learners Two younger pre-school children were also retarded. In this particular case, both parents were defective.

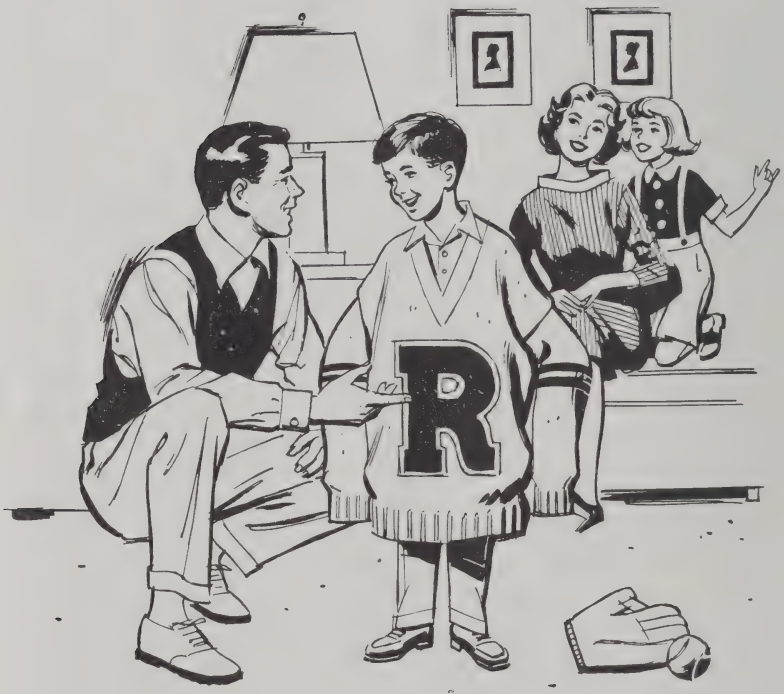
But it is not only the mentally-defective parent who brings defective children into the world. Some highly-intelligent parents, through no fault of theirs, have *only* mentally-retarded children. This is rare, but it is a serious problem in some families. After these intelligent parents have produced several mentally-defective children, they naturally question the advisability of bringing more such children into the world.

There are other types of physical and mental defects which parents must seriously consider when raising a family. Some families carry an epileptic condition. Although the seizures may be very light, epilepsy is definitely traced in the family. One fine brilliant woman, a dedicated Chris-

tion, for example, had mild epilepsy. Like others, through medication she was able to control the seizures. Although her husband was not an epileptic, there was a history of it in his family. Each medical doctor they consulted said they should not have children. They were warned that in all possibility at least some of their children, and possibly *all* of them, would be afflicted with epilepsy.

But it is not only people who struggle with health problems, or those who must consider inherited traits that are concerned about birth control. Many parents sense their sacred responsibility to adequately train their children. Some parents cannot cope with more than a given number. Of course, there are some outstanding parents who can easily handle a large family. But there are others who are neither emotionally nor physically able to work with more than a few.

For these and many other reasons parents are seriously considering their responsibility to God in the number of children they bring into the world.


R

3 | Unwanted Children

Some couples who have dreaded the thought of having another child, have later learned that the "unwanted" one has actually brought unusual joy. A mother was discussing with a counselor how she had felt about having her last child. She told how from the time she learned she was pregnant, she was most unhappy.

"Finally," she said, "before the baby was born, I reached the point of accepting him. But now as I look back, I can see how foolish I was, because this last child has actually brought our family great satisfaction. At an early age he surrendered his life to Christ. And as he grew into adulthood he developed into an outstanding man of God. Later he and his family went to the mission field. Now as I look back, I realize that although all of our children brought us great joy, this 'intruder' has brought more blessing to us than all the others combined."

Many parents have found this to be the case. Yes, God knows what is best for us far better than we do. Some couples have desired small families but God has brought them unusual joy through large families. Some couples have longed for large families, but God seemed to limit them to one or two children. And to other couples He has not permitted even one child to be born. And yet, God's will is always best.

There are many reasons why some couples do not want children. Sometimes a working wife feels that children will interfere with her career. Some people are basically selfish and they do not wish to have their personal plans thwarted by the coming of children. Others are emotionally immature and want to avoid the responsibilities of a family. Yet, when many of these couples *do* have children, an entirely new world is opened before them, one that brings blessing and satisfaction.

Sometimes a baby is unwanted because the mother is battling a health problem. This is understandable, but God's grace is sufficient, even in such circumstances. The following is just such an experience: "I was in distress mentally

because of what seemed to have been a nervous breakdown. I suffered this after the birth of three children in three years. Five years later, still far from recovered, I was expecting another baby. I was trusting in God, yet physically it looked like I could expect anything from the strain of another birth. I feared insanity.

"I went all out during this time of pregnancy, trying to prepare myself. Among other things, I had several sessions with a Christian psychologist. He was a tremendous help to me. First, my visits were a morale booster, and I surely needed that. Of course, I tried to follow his advice. Among other things, he suggested I seek the help of an endocrinologist. I did that. The endocrinologist found that I had a thyroid deficiency and treated me for that. The results were wonderful. I still go for a checkup every several months. I can't say I have perfect health, but I am doing all my own work and am continuing to improve.

"And are we ever enjoying that baby! God gave him to me to show that He knows what is best. You can imagine how we all love him. So God is very good."

Unfortunately, however, not all babies who are unwanted during the period of pregnancy win their way to their parents' hearts. These children, through no fault of their own, often enter a terrible world of suffering. As psychologists and psychiatrists counsel with those who are deeply disturbed and/or mentally ill, the stories they hear are often marked by the same pattern: as children these people had felt rejected and unloved. They had been born into a home where they were unwanted.

Couples who bring a child into the world which they really do not want are doing the child life-time damage. One of the basic needs of every human being is to feel that he is desired, loved, and wanted. But if this need is left unfulfilled in his life, he will usually become disturbed and severely maladjusted.

Louise was the victim of just such a circumstance. She was born into a home where she was not welcome. During the entire time of pregnancy, her mother wished that there was some way to prevent her being born. The father's attitude was no better. "We have enough children in this

house already," he thought. Neither parent looked forward to Louise's birth. But she arrived on time. Her mother and father cared for her to some extent, but they never gave her the love which every child deserves and needs. As the years rolled by, Louise entered school. Her teachers knew that she was emotionally disturbed, but they did not know what was causing it. In time, she finished elementary school and junior high. During her senior year in high school, Louise dropped out. Because of her desire to be accepted and loved, she was a willing victim to anyone who would show her a measure of affection and give her some status. She soon fell prey to bad company and about a year later she gave birth to her first baby – born out of wedlock. In time she married, but not happily. By the time she was in her mid-twenties, she was living her mother's life all over again. She was expecting another child and resented it bitterly. As time went on, she was unable to cope with life and finally had to seek psychiatric help. After several sessions, the psychiatrist suggested to Louise's husband that she be placed in a mental institution so that she could receive the kind of care she needed.

How sad to realize that there are many babies who enter the world with this handicap forced upon them! Because they are neither wanted nor loved, they begin life with two strikes against them. This is dishonoring to God. And, of course, it means that many lives are miserable and warped because they have been denied the basic elements that help to mold a well-adjusted, happy life.

4 | A Silent Subject

Although much has been written from the secular point of view about birth control, surprisingly little has come from the pens of evangelical Christians. In fact, as one scans the bookshelves, libraries, and Christian bookstores, he finds almost nothing on this subject. True, a few books and leaflets have been published, but a close look at these sparse writings would indicate that, in some instances, the author reflected his own personal point of view. Thus, he stretched his imagination as far as possible to try to find some Biblical point on which to hang his prejudices.

One writer who tried to show why Christians should have large families pointed out that children in large families are better adjusted, less selfish, and have better personalities than children who come from small families. This, of course, does not stand up under scientific scrutiny. Whether one comes from a large or small family has little to do with how his personality develops.

In fact, some recent research studies show that children from small families often tend to be especially well adjusted. A few years ago, a study was made in the midwest of the best adjusted boys and girls in the public schools. In nearly 100 classrooms, teachers were asked to list the names of the three children whom they felt were the best adjusted — both in relationship to their classmates and to the adults around the school. Naturally, this was an important study inasmuch as the teacher saw the children every day, under many circumstances, month in and month out. Interestingly enough, the result of the study indicated that 80 per cent of all of the children who were listed as being most thoughtful, most mature, and best adjusted were "only" children. They had no brothers or sisters. But undoubtedly, they had parents who had the time to train them well.

True, very little has been written on the subject of birth control by evangelical Christians. And unfortunately, some of what has been written is misleading, with little

basis of fact in the Scriptures. Perhaps the lack of writing on this subject is due to the fact that students of the Word find very little about it in the Scriptures.

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College
KANKAKEE, ILL.

5 | What Does the Bible Say?

One man, searching for information on birth control, read a book on family life education. One extensive chapter was dedicated to the subject of birth control. The writer quoted various authors, leaders and several religious groups. But never once did he refer to the teachings of the Bible. His ideas all came from man's mind – not God's.

If we want to know God's will, we must look into His Word.

As we turn the pages of the Bible we find very little on the subject of birth control. In the Old Testament there is a reference to Onan who refused to beget children by his brother's wife. However, Onan's case was clearly one of disobedience to an ancient Hebrew law. It has no reference to present day matters of birth control. In the Old Testament there is a brief reference to natural and diseased issues of both men and women. This concerns the old Levitical law of cleansing. Surely God loves His creatures and has given them many guides for living. Yet, in matters of planned parenthood, He does not give specific directions. Believers might deduce, therefore, that as in many other areas of life, He expects mankind to study His Word, then conduct himself within these limits. Although the Bible scarcely deals with birth control, it does discuss children, family responsibilities, and matters of sex.

The Scriptures teach that sexual relations between husband and wife are right. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrew 13:4). The Bible takes for granted that intimate relations are normal and desirable in marriage. "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love" (Proverbs 5:18,19.)

There are some Christians who believe that all sex life is sinful because David was inspired of God to say, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). But this is a misinterpretation of Scripture. It simply means that David was a sinner because the whole human race is sinful. He inherited a sinful nature from his parents. David here is confessing to God the depravity of human nature. This Scripture does not refer to sexual relations at all.

The Scriptures teach that the sexual relationship of husband and wife is a *duty* (as well as a privilege). "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not [deprive not] one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency" (I Corinthians 7:3-5). Notice that neither partner is to deprive the other of sexual relations. The only exception being if by *mutual consent* they both desire to forego such relations for a time, that they may better give themselves to fasting and prayer. But even in such case, it should be only for a time. Then they should come together again.

God intended sex to be enjoyed. It is to be a pleasure not only for the husband but also for the wife. "A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts" (Song of Solomon 1:13). "His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me" (Song of Solomon 2:6).

An outstanding Bible teacher has written: "There are some people who have taught that the sexual life of husband and wife is intended for procreation of children only and that intercourse not intended to produce children should be avoided. But the teaching of Scripture as well as the teaching of experience is against this. Sexual relations are purposed for the comfort and joy of all married people, not only to produce children but to develop their love one for another. For husband and wife, considerate intercourse is

right and healthful, for it promotes true happiness and morality."

The question arises, "How many children?" God does not tell us, but He *does* say, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3-5).

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord" (Psalm 128:3,4.)

To Adam and Eve in the garden God commanded, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28). Again after the Flood God repeated that command to Noah and his descendants, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 9:1). To multiply is a duty of mankind. It is God's plan.

6 | Parental Responsibilities to Children

One clear teaching in the Word of God is that when parents bring children into the world, they have a responsibility for them. Undoubtedly many parents produce offspring without giving adequate thought to the care and training that is rightfully due each child.

Parents are admonished by God (in strong terms) to *provide* for their children: "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy 5:8).

God places a high premium on children. In reading the Bible we are impressed with the fact that God encourages people to have children. Yet many Christian parents do not fully understand God's command that if they *do* have children, they must also have sufficient financial resources to care for them. Take the case of the "Smiths." At the age of thirty their house was already bulging with children, none of whom was being cared for properly. Lack of financial resources required the mother, as well as the father, to work outside the home. Living in a city apartment, the parents more or less depended upon neighbors to care for their children. With each additional baby, they endeavored to get a relative or some acquaintance to come in for a while and care for the little one. In this way, both parents could continue to work, hoping to make enough money to feed and clothe their youngsters. Needless to say, the children were raised in poverty. They were denied an adequate diet and prevented from having proper medical care. Without supervision the children were continually bickering and quarreling, and the home was very disorganized.

Was this couple obeying God? No, hardly. In having more children than they could provide for, they were "denying the faith," and, in the words of the Scriptures, were "worse than infidels."

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College

To the Christian, having children is more than just giving birth to them. Throughout the Scriptures, believers are taught to give time and attention to each child. Parents are exhorted, "*Train* up a child in the way he should go . . ." (Proverbs 22:6). They are not only instructed to *teach* their children – but to do it *diligently*: "And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children . . ." (Deuteronomy 6:6,7a).

What does it mean to train up a child? What is involved in teaching our sons and daughters diligently?

Training up a child involves a planned, consistent program. Naturally, this takes time – hours each week for years.

Teaching a child diligently requires not only time but understanding and patience. Before a parent can successfully instruct, he must understand his child's interests and learn his abilities. The best way to gain this kind of understanding is to spend adequate time with each child. Parents who leave the instruction of their children entirely to the schools are neither wise nor obedient. At best, the classroom teacher is limited in what he can present. The very number of children in a class and their varied backgrounds make it difficult to teach them as thoroughly as they should be taught. This, plus individual differences in intelligence and achievement, makes the classroom job a doubly difficult one.

Consequently, a child needs more than the teaching he receives at school. He needs understanding, guidance and godly instruction in the home. Reading to children, explaining things to them, encouraging them to ask questions, and taking them on trips and excursions – all these and more are involved in teaching a child diligently. It is a day in and day out process that utilizes every opportunity to help a child develop intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

Little wonder then that God does not specify how many children each family should have. The abilities and resources of each family vary greatly. What would be appropriate for one family would not be suitable for another.

Parents are told to *correct* their sons and daughters: "Withhold not correction from the child . . ." (Proverbs

23:13). In addition they are told not to needlessly cause their children to become angry and discouraged: "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

Correcting a child takes both time and wisdom. It involves finding out what a child has done, why he has done it, and the circumstances involved. Explanation should then be given why the child is not to do it again. Discipline requires that a parent show his child a better way, one that is right in the eyes of God and man. When necessary, suitable punishment should be given.

"Provoking not your children to anger" requires skill and understanding on the part of parents. Christ Himself taught that children are people, too. They have minds, feelings, hopes, and problems. Parents must take all these into consideration if they are to work with children in such a way that they do not become discouraged or angry.

What, then, do these Scriptures show about planned parenthood? Undoubtedly this: when a child is brought into the world, parents are responsible for his well being. A parent's duty is to provide for his needs and to care for him. They also are responsible for his training. Certainly parents cannot educate or "train up" a child without devoting sufficient time to know him well and to win his confidence.

Yes, God places great responsibility upon parents for each child that he entrusts into their care. In short, children are a sacred trust not to be dealt with haphazardly. Indeed, we are charged and commanded by God to thoroughly provide for a child's welfare:

- financially
- educationally
- socially (through discipline and love)
- spiritually

If couples cannot meet these responsibilities, they should seriously consider whether it is honoring to God to have children. This is the teaching of the Word.

Although the Bible contains no specific teaching about the number of children a couple should have, it does make clear parents' responsibilities to the children they do have. Having children is encouraged, but in a sense it is discouraged unless they can be adequately provided for. Scores and scores of parents bring children into the world, then take little responsibility for them. The result is that many will live wretched, unhappy lives, and then spend an eternity apart from God. For these reasons, many Christian couples consult a reliable physician about the spacing of their children. Indeed, the raising of a family is important. Parents, then, should prayerfully consider the number of children they should have.

7 | In Summary

In summary, the New Testament does not deal directly with the subject of birth control. We know that the Bible *does* clearly teach the wonderfulness and wholesomeness of sexual relations in marriage. It encourages husbands and wives to have intimate relations and to enjoy them. God's Word also teaches us that children are a blessing. And of course we cannot comprehend what a *great blessing* children really are until we actually have them ourselves.

God's Word also teaches that we have a responsibility to care for those children which we *do* have. One might gain the inference from this teaching that unless we can care for a child and can manage him and raise him up in the nurture of the Lord, giving him what he needs and deserves, it is not honoring to God to bring him into the world.

The Bible gives us many instructions. It deals with the tongue, with our thoughts, and many other things. But it is interesting that it does not give us definite commands concerning birth control. Why is this? Undoubtedly God in His wisdom knew that individual couples would have individual problems – that not all families should be poured into the same mold. Surely, if God had desired a uniform law for all believers, He would have clearly and plainly given it in His Word. Undoubtedly, God knew that what was good for one family might not always be right for another. God knew that some parents should raise large families and that others should not.

Since God has not given any definite teaching regarding birth control, Christians should be sensitive to the "spirit" of the law. And indeed God *does* encourage parents to have children, and to adequately train and care for those they have. If a couple enters marriage with the willful thought of never raising any children (without valid reasons), this attitude evidently violates the spirit of God's Word. But if a couple enters marriage sincerely desiring children, God will surely honor their attitude of heart. But if this same couple

seeks His will, then finds it is best not to have children, or if they are prevented from having children, they may still please Him. God is primarily interested in our attitude toward Him and toward His Word. Truly, He looks at the heart.

It is not ours to judge another. It is the responsibility, therefore, of each couple to surrender their lives to Christ and to follow Him. On this basis a couple can confidently think and pray a matter through and God will give them wisdom. They then can do that which is right for *them*, and they can expect God's blessing!

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College
KANKAKEE, ILL.

LIBRARY
Olivet Nazarene College
KANKAKEE, ILL.

Twelve Practical Books in the

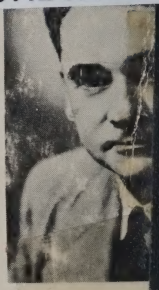
Christian Psychol

SERIES

3 0112 077782198

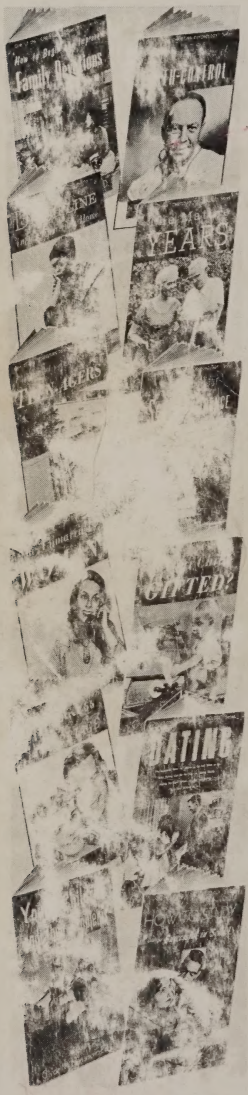
by

DR. CLYDE M. NARRAMORE



Narramo

The twelve books in this down-to-earth new series deal with the everyday problems of families and individuals. America's foremost Christian psychologist sanely and sensibly meets and answers your problems in:



HOW TO BEGIN AND IMPROVE FAMILY DEVOTIONS
Easy-to-follow directions on how to establish and all-important family altar.

A CHRISTIAN VIEW OF BIRTH CON
Family planning has come to the fore as one pressing problems facing civilization today. Here counsel.

DISCIPLINE IN THE CHRISTIAN H
Lack of intelligent discipline is a problem in C as well as others. Here are practical pointers on youngsters.

THE MATURE YEARS
The growing "senior citizen" population creat lems in human relationships, all of which find th a practical application of God's Word.

UNDERSTANDING AND GUIDING T
The crucial adolescent and young adult years c and progressive, up-to-date guidance. Every Ch will find this invaluable.

IMPROVING YOUR SELF-CONFIDEN
Self-confidence rests in accepting yourself for w and doing what God would have you do with y talents.

THE UNMARRIED WOMAN
This group must face many problems unique discouraging. The solution lies in a close relati and serving Him.

IS YOUR CHILD GIFTED?
There is a wide range of "gifted" children belo the genius. Christian parents and teachers have sponsibility to them.

HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE
The closest human relationship is that of man a tain frictions and frustrations are bound to develo lems are skillfully dealt with in this needed book.

DATING
When young people first become aware of the o the time to put the precepts in this book into use etiquette along with other dating situations.

YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR PRO
An understanding of the child's growth pattern changes, etc., is vital for an intelligent approach by parents and teachers.

HOW TO STUDY AND BE SUCCESSF IN SCHOOL
Emphasis on education has reached an all-time success in school has a direct bearing on a young in the business world. Here are practical hint

Each, 32 to 48 pages, illustrated — only

300,000 Copies of These Helpful Books Now i